United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/656
6 June 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, on final day of official visit to Washington, meets with Senators from Florida and Massachusetts.

+ Secretary-General issues statement to Geneva meeting preparing for proposed United Nations-supervised referendum to settle Western Sahara question.

+ Secretary-General expresses great concern over reports of increasing loss of life and suffering resulting from continuing conflict in Liberia.

+ Donor Pledging Conference for Namibia to be convened by Secretary-General at Headquarters on 21 and 22 June.

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On the final day of his three-day official visit to Washington D.C., Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar today attended a reception hosted by Representative Dante B. Fascell, Chairman of the House of Representatives' Committee on Foreign Affairs. He also attended a luncheon hosted by the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Claiborne Pell, followed by a meeting with the Senate Appropriations Committee.

He was expected to receive a call from the National Security Affairs Adviser, Brent Scowcroft, and to meet with the Senate leadership, including majority leader George Mitchell and minority leader Robert Dole.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General met with Senator Bob Graham of Florida, who raised the question of the human rights situation in Cuba, which is of special interest to a number of his constituents. The two also discussed hemispheric relations, support for emerging democracies and the international drug problem.

The Secretary-General also met with Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy and discussed the situation in Angola, the Middle East, Iran-Iraq, Central America, Cyprus and United Nations finances. He also met with staff of the United Nations Information Centre in Washington.

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At a meeting held last night in Geneva to prepare for the proposed United Nations-supervised referendum on the question of Western Sahara, the Secretary-General, in an opening statement read by his Special Representative, Johannes Manz, told the tribal leaders invited to discuss the referendum that this was a very important juncture in the history of Western Sahara, and that the joint endeavours of the United Nations and themselves could have a decisive influence on the future of the Territory and its development under conditions of peace and tranquillity.

The referendum would allow the people of the Territory to vote for independence or integration with Morocco. Tribal leaders from the area were invited to discuss the referendum and to give their feedback on the best means of identifying qualified voters.

The two parties, Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO), have both accepted that the referendum should be conducted under the auspices of the Secretary-General with a mandate by the Security Council. The Secretary-General said he would seek that mandate and also confirm the consent of the two parties in the weeks immediately ahead.

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A United Nations official said today that the Secretary-General was "greatly concerned" over reports of increasing loss of life and suffering resulting from the continuing conflict in Liberia. He strongly urged that "peaceful conditions be restored without delay, and that the atrocities being inflicted on innocent civilians be brought to an immediate end".

He said the Secretary-General had reaffirmed that the United Nations stood ready to resume its humanitarian operations as soon as the situation permitted.

All United Nations staff were evacuated from the country due to the advance of rebels on the capital city, Monrovia, and an attack on a United Nations compound there on 30 May.

Tomorrow, in Geneva, a meeting is being organized by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), donor countries and certain African countries to see how to resume relief operations in Liberia.

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A Donor Pledging Conference for Namibia will be convened by the Secretary-General at Headquarters on 21 and 22 June.

The documents for the Conference are now being distributed at Headquarters and at the office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Windhoek to the international community, especially to potential

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donors. They present a clear picture of the current socio-economic situation in Namibia, together with the country's most urgent quantified requirements. The documents are entitled: "General policy statement", "Namibian preliminary economic review", "Private sector policy paper" and "Investment programme", as well as "Project profiles".

In the next few days, Ministers and other senior Namibian Government officials will visit the capitals of certain donor countries and the headquarters of relevant international aid and development agencies. These "sensitization missions" will enable the Government officials to answer any questions relating to the Conference, so that the donors will be able to consider their participation well in advance.

The Pledging Conference is being convened in accordance with a Security Council resolution of last year, for the purpose of mobilizing financial, material and technical assistance to Namibia. The Secretary-General and Namibian President Sam Nujoma will make inaugural addresses to the Conference in the morning of 21 June. The UNDP will deliver an opening address.

All States are being invited to the Conference, as well as relevant international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The participants will be asked to indicate ways and means of assisting Namibia within the framework of the priority development programmes and projects of the Government described in the Conference documents.

The Secretary-General expresses the hope that the documents will enable donors to identify the areas in which they can provide necessary assistance to Namibia. In addition to providing bilateral assistance, donors are welcome to contribute on a multilateral basis through funds established in the United Nations system for this purpose, including within UNDP.

A major result expected from the Conference is to receive bilateral as well as multilateral assistance from the donor countries in the reconstruction and development programmes of post-independent Namibia.

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7 June 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General welcomes announcement made by South African President F.W. De Klerk to lift state of emergency in three of the country's four provinces. Chairman of Special Committee against Apartheid makes statement.

+ Meeting of senior United Nations officials on Western Sahara concludes in Geneva.

+ Commissioner-General of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, launches appeal to international community for $5 million for remainder of this year's emergency operations in Lebanon, Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

+ Permanent Observer of Democratic People's Republic of Korea presents disarmament proposal for peace on the Korean peninsula in letter to Security Council President.

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A United Nations official said today that the Secretary-General "welcomes the announcement made by President F.W. De Klerk" that his Government would lift the four-year-old state of emergency in three of South Africa's four provinces as of midnight Friday.

The Secretary-General considers this "a positive development", the official said.

Ibrahim A. Gambari of Nigeria, Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, in a statement on the announcement on the partial lifting of the state of emergency, said the Committee was still concerned that even without the emergency regulations, the South African police force would have at their disposal legislation to curtail the freedom of the press.

He said the Committee felt that the announcement of "this positive step by the South African Government should not in any way justify or lead to a premature and hasty relaxation of existing measures by any State or any group

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For information media—not an official record

of States". The institutional pillars of the apartheid system, such as the Population Registration Act and the Natives Land Acts, remained in place, Mr. Gambari said.

* * *

A United Nations official said today at Headquarters that the Security Council was expected to meet tomorrow to discuss the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) beyond 10 June. The updated number of demobilized Nicaraguan resistance members as of yesterday had reached the total of 6,287.

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A group of senior United Nations officials today concluded their meeting in Geneva on the question of Western Sahara with 38 Saharan notables invited by the Secretary-General.

A communique issued at the end of the meeting which began on Monday said the United Nations group, presided over by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Johannes Manz, had been meeting with the Saharan notables in order to facilitate the work of the Commission in identifying Saharans eligible to participate in the referendum. The meeting was held in the presence of the Personal Representative of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

The meeting enabled the United Nations group to inform the Saharan notables of the role of the Identification Commission and of the initial stages envisaged with respect to the organization of the referendum and to request their co-operation to that end.

The communique said that in accordance with the proposals for the settlement of the question of Western Sahara of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the current OAU Chairman, the census organized by the Spanish authorities in 1974 in Western Sahara was accepted as a basis for the identification of persons eligible to participate in the referendum.

While according that document the merit of being a historic reference document, the meeting drew attention to certain imperfections and inadequacies in it, among them being the fact that a number of Saharans and Saharan refugees had been omitted.

Some working formulas were also suggested with a view to updating the document and presenting the facts contained in it more fully as soon as possible. These proposed formulas will be brought to the attention of the Identification Commission, which will decide on the action to be taken, including the establishment, in consultation with the parties, of technical working groups that will work in close co-operation with the Saharan notables.

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The Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Giorgio Giacomelli, has launched an appeal to the international community for $5 million to enable the Agency to continue its emergency operations in Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip during the remainder of 1990. He also called for special contributions to finance the construction of a much-needed 200-bed hospital in the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Giacomelli made his appeal at an annual informal meeting, held in Vienna yesterday and today. The Commissioner-General emphasized the need for assurances that contributions would be forthcoming to continue the Agency's emergency operations which are becoming an ongoing requirement in Lebanon, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Another $35 million will be needed to continue these operations next year.

Mr. Giacomelli said the Agency was also planning to build a hospital in the Gaza Strip to alleviate an acute shortage of hospital beds available for the Strip's 650,000 population, 450,000 of whom are refugees.

The donor Governments participating in the meeting stressed the need for continued financial support for UNRWA operations and urged other potential donors to join in this humanitarian effort. Many other participants expressed their Governments' concern at the continued violations of UNRWA's privileges and immunities by the Israeli authorities, including the detention and interrogation of Agency staff and the numerous incursions into UNRWA premises by the Israeli security forces.

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A disarmament proposal for peace on the Korean peninsula has been presented in a letter to the United Nations Security Council President by the Permanent Observer to the United Nations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The proposal calls for a series of confidence-building measures between the north and the south centred on the limitation of military training and military manoeuvres. It also urges a reduction of armed forces on both sides and the withdrawal of foreign forces.

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United Nations

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8 June 1990

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Security Council extends term of United Nations Observer Group in Central America to no later than 29 June, for completion of demobilization of Nicaraguan resistance forces.

+ Special Committee on Israeli Practices concludes two-week field mission to Middle East.

+ Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator announces contingency plan to resume relief activities in Liberia, as soon as situation in that country permits return of United Nation staff.

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The Security Council this evening extended the term of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) until the completion of demobilization of resistance forces in Nicaragua, specifying the process should be completed no later than 29 June.

The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 656 (1990), which calls for ONUCA to continue monitoring the cease-fire, the separation of forces and the demobilization of the resistance in Nicaragua and for all those directly involved in the process to maintain and, if possible, increase the rate of demobilization.

Council members had met earlier in the afternoon in informal consultations to hear an oral report by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance.

The demobilization of the resistance was scheduled to be completed by Sunday, 10 June. However, the Secretary-General requested the Council to consider an extension beyond that date due to the delay in the demobilization process.

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The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories concluded on Monday, 4 June, a two-week mission to Damascus, Amman and Cairo, during which it reviewed the latest developments relating to the human rights situation in the territories occupied by Israel.

The Special Committee heard some 50 witnesses who said they had had first-hand experience about the situation in the occupied Golan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The witnesses said there continued to be a high number of casualties among civilians resulting from the harsh methods used in trying to quell the uprising of the population. Serious clashes were said to occur practically every day, often resulting in deaths or severe injuries provoked by live, rubber or plastic bullets, various exploding objects, tear-gas and beatings. Many witnesses stressed the increasingly high percentage of children being killed or wounded, often as a result of random shooting or beatings by Israeli soldiers.

The testimony denounced what was termed inhuman treatment of Palestinians during detention and the denial of the fundamental right to a fair trial, in sharp contrast to the relative leniency with which Israelis charged with mistreatment of Palestinians were said to have been prosecuted. Concern was expressed over the closing for prolonged periods of universities, schools and kindergartens, and the denial to educational institutions of the facilities and material required for maintaining their research and teaching activities. That, according to the witnesses, had brought about a dramatic decline in the educational level which, in turn, had long-term negative effects on the development of the people in the occupied territories.

The Special Committee's attention was drawn to reports of new deportation measures implemented by the Israeli occupation authorities affecting, in particular, women without residence permits and their children. Even when such women had been born in the occupied territories, had married and lived there for many years and had given birth to children in the territories, it was stated, they were being denied the right to reside there and were consequently deported without prior warning, usually under harsh and humiliating conditions. Several such cases were said to have taken place on a large scale, in particular during the period from August 1989 to February.

The Special Committee also heard reports about the continuing difficult economic conditions affecting the civilian population, including the disproportionately high percentage of taxation; the arbitrary nature of administrative and judicial decisions; the raiding and demolition of houses; the expropriation of land and expansion of existing settlements, as well as the creation of new ones.

Since 1969, the Special Committee has prepared and submitted 21 reports to the General Assembly through the Secretary-General. It has been denied access to the territories occupied by Israel and, therefore, relies on reports appearing in the Israeli- and Arab-language newspapers published in the

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occupied territories, as well as on oral evidence provided by persons having first-hand knowledge of the situation there. The Special Committee will meet again in Geneva from 27 to 30 August, to consider its report to the Assembly.

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The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) announced yesterday in Geneva that it had developed a contingency plan to resume relief activities in Liberia as soon as circumstances permitted and the Secretary-General authorized the return of United Nations staff to the country.

Addressing the meeting, the United Nations Resident Co-ordinator in Liberia, Michael Heyn, stressed the spirit of co-operation in relief operations, which had benefited from the support of the Liberian Disaster Relief Commission, a high level of donor interest, the excellent experience of non-governmental organizations involved and the close collaboration of United Nations agencies.

Mr. Heyn said that in spite of increasing security problems, the UNDRO team and Medicin Sans Frontiere, a non-governmental organization, had carried out 10 successful operations to distribute food and provide medical care to some 40,000 displaced persons between 6 April and 27 May in Bong, Grand Bassa and Lofa counties.

The future goal was to return and restart emergency relief operations, which would be followed by rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, he said. For the 500,000 displaced persons and refugees in need of assistance, an immediate 3,500 tonnes of food and medical supplies were needed. He also called for an expanded relief team, additional vehicles, radios and computers, additional medical teams and equipment, and specialists in sanitary and civil engineering.

The Chargé d'affaires of Liberia, who also addressed the meeting, said Liberians felt heartened by the fact that the international community had not "abandoned" their country in its hour of need.

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United Nations

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11 June 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) announces appointment of Olivia Newton-John as UNEP Goodwill Ambassador.

+ Nelson Mandela, at International Labour Conference in Geneva, calls for maintenance of economic sanctions against South Africa.

+ Intergovernmental Group monitoring oil and petroleum shipments to South Africa considers draft interim report.

+ State parties to 1963 Partial Test-Ban Treaty conclude meeting in preparation for 1991 Amendment Conference.

* * *

The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mostafa K. Tolba, announced today the appointment of Olivia Newton-John as UNEP Goodwill Ambassador.

With her appointment, Ms. Newton-John joins such other Goodwill Ambassadors as actor Max von Sydow and Ahmad Obeidat of Jordan. Her appointment comes at a time of increased growing public concern for the environment and considerable pressure on the United Nations to initiate action and to keep the public abreast of the latest developments.

In the tradition of Goodwill Ambassadors, Ms. Newton-John, a long-time advocate for the environment, will help promote United Nations goals and activities in dealing with environmental issues. She has been involved in environmental causes since the late 1970s. Her two-year tenure as UNEP Goodwill Ambassador will culminate in her participation in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Brazil, June 1992). She will also undertake goodwill missions, including an official visit to UNEP's Nairobi headquarters in August, where she will lead a "Celebrity Safari".

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Briefing correspondents about the appointment, Mr. Tolba called on the international community to take immediate action to combat global warming. He said scientists had recommended immediate reductions in greenhouse gases of over 60 per cent to stabilize their concentration at today's levels.

According to the 1990-91 World Resources report, published by the World Resources Institute in conjunction with UNEP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United States and the European Community were the two largest contributors of dangerous, heat-trapping greenhouse gases in 1987, the latest year for which figures are available. In that year, the equivalent of 6.5 billion tons of carbon -- in the form of carbon dioxide, methane and chlorofluorocarbons -- were added to the atmosphere. That amount was more than double that of 30 years earlier.

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Nelson Mandela, Deputy President of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), addressing the International Labour Conference in Geneva last Friday, called for the maintenance of the economic sanctions against South Africa until all obstacles to a negotiated end of the apartheid system were removed.

Addressing over 2,000 government, employer and worker representatives from 149 countries, Mr. Mandela said the reality in South Africa was that the apartheid system, in all its principal elements, remained in place. Fundamental change had not yet taken place. It was against that background that he was calling for the continuance of sanctions against South Africa. Mr. Mandela added: "Sanctions were imposed as a peaceful means to end apartheid. Given the fact that apartheid has not ended, it is only logical that we should continue to use this weapon of struggle."

Mr. Mandela also referred to the International Labour Organization's (ILO) assistance to South Africa's democratic trade union movement, which had made it possible to reach agreement with South African employers to change the repressive Labour Relations Act.

* * *

The Chairman of the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa, Anthony B. Nyakyi (United Republic of Tanzania), called last Friday on the international community to continue the embargo.

At a meeting during which the Group considered its draft interim report, Mr. Nyakyi said that although there was growing evidence the Pretoria authorities recognized that apartheid was a failure and had taken positive steps of reform, the fundamental pillars of apartheid were still in place. The oil embargo was considered one of the most effective peaceful measures to increase pressure on the South African regime to expedite the end of apartheid and to promote the establishment of a democratic and non-racial South Africa.

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In the draft report, the Group stresses the importance of legislation or comparable measures regarding the embargo. It also recommends that "Governments discourage ships capable of carrying oil or petroleum products in their national registries, or owned or managed by companies or individuals within their jurisdictions, from engaging in activities that give rise to violations of the oil embargo against South Africa".

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The States parties to the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear-Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water -- also known as the Partial Test-Ban Treaty -- adopted last Friday its final report relating to the Conference to amend the Treaty.

The objective of the Conference, scheduled to be held in New York from 7 to 18 January next year, is to seek agreement to convert the Treaty into a comprehensive regime to also cover underground nuclear-weapon tests.

Ending their nine-day meeting, the State parties also adopted a resolution inviting the views of the States parties, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, regarding the verification of a comprehensive nuclear-test ban from its members.

The representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States said the adoption of the resolution was not a commitment on their part to do so. The representative of the Soviet Union said his Government would comply with the resolution.

In a concluding statement, the President of the meeting, Edmond Jayasinghe (Sri Lanka), said there was no question that the meeting had been a success, particularly because its decisions had been reached by consensus. He expressed satisfaction about the recent successful agreements signed by the United States and the Soviet Union, saying those developments augured well for the Conference.

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United Nations

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12 June 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Conference on Disarmament begins second part of 1990 session. Hears opening statement by President for month of June.

+ Report on status of contributions to United Nations regular budget and continuing operations is issued.

+ New Permanent Representative of China presents credentials to Secretary-General.

* * *

Opening the resumed session of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva today, the President for the month of June, Oswaldo de Rivero of Peru, declared that the Conference must take into account the present political climate and the new trends in international relations which were bringing about a new concept of international security. He observed that security was now taking on a common global dimension and embracing economic and food security for the peoples of their countries. It extended to protection of the environment, combating terrorism and drug traffic, the defence of human rights and the development of democracy.

The current session of the Conference was particularly important, he said, in view of the forthcoming Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It was important for the Conference on Disarmament to give highest priority to the establishment of an ad hoc committee to consider the matter of a nuclear-test ban. That subject was one of the cornerstones on which the progressive advancement of the Conference's work should be built.

The negotiations that had made the most progress in the Conference on Disarmament concerned a convention banning chemical weapons, he said. Under the present circumstances, the speediest possible conclusion of a convention was incumbent upon the entire international community.

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The United States is the largest debtor to the United Nations, with a total outstanding balance of nearly $585 million, according to the latest status of contributions report, dated 31 May. Of that amount, over $350 million is from prior years and some $233 million is due for the current year.

Japan owes the second largest amount -- nearly $72 million -- and the Soviet Union ranks third with outstanding payments of over $42 million.

As for the financial situation of United Nations peace-keeping forces and other operations, the report said the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was most seriously affected, with almost $318 million in outstanding contributions. Owing the largest amounts were the United States, with outstanding payments of about $112 million, and the Soviet Union, with some $111 million.

According to the report, some $31 million in outstanding contributions were due for financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), the operation that recently monitored Namibia's progress to independence.

The United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) lacked $25 million owed by Member countries; and the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), which is currently monitoring the demobilization process of resistance members in Nicaragua, was short almost $18 million in outstanding contributions.

* * *

Li Daoyu, the new Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, presented his credentials today to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Li was Assistant Foreign Minister of China, a post he held since May 1988. He served from 1984 to 1988 as Director of the Department of International Organizations in China's Foreign Ministry, and from 1983 to 1984 was Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva. He entered China's foreign service in 1952 and held various posts in the Department of International Organizations and Conferences.

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United Nations

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13 June 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General to send Jean-Claude Aimé as his Personal Representative on visit to Israel and the occupied territories.

+ Secretary-General calls on all Member countries to contribute to United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus.

+ Intergovernmental Group adopts report on supply and shipment of oil and petroleum products to South Africa.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar invited yesterday the Israeli Ambassador, Johanan Bein, to a meeting and informed him of his intention to send a mission to the area. At the meeting, Mr. Bein expressed the preparedness of his Government to receive a mission.

Accordingly, the Secretary-General decided to send Jean-Claude Aimé, who is responsible for matters relating to the Middle East, as his Personal Representative, on a visit to Israel and the occupied territories, his Spokesman said today.

The Spokesman added that the Secretary-General had been deeply concerned for some time about developments in the territories, but felt that in view of his responsibilities under the Charter, it was his duty to send a mission to look into the situation and to report back to him.

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The Secretary-General has appealed to the Governments of all State Members or members of the specialized agencies for voluntary contributions for the financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

In a letter dated 31 May, he said that despite repeated appeals, contributions continued to fall short. At the end of April, the accumulated

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shortfall in the Force's special account had reached $179.3 million for the period ending mid-June. As to the current period, he said, only $2.4 million had been pledged out of an estimated $13.8 million.

The Secretary-General noted that the burden of the deficit fell entirely on the handful of troop-contributing countries which were already absorbing over 70 per cent of the costs of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force. He said that placed "an unacceptable and wholly unfair financial burden" on those countries.

The Secretary-General also said that the vital peace-keeping role of UNFICYP had been unanimously emphasized by the Security Council time and again. The Force continued to make an indispensable contribution to international peace and security and to maintaining calm in Cyprus. He said that was a condition which was indispensable to his ongoing efforts to bring about a political settlement on the Mediterranean island.

* * *

The United Nations Group monitoring the oil embargo against South Africa adopted yesterday a report which says that port calls by ships with petroleum-bearing capabilities could be a major element in clandestine violations of the General Assembly embargo.

According to the report, the Group was still investigating over 400 unclarified port calls made in South Africa between the beginning of 1988 and early 1989. More than 40 per cent of those came from ports in countries where the export of oil and petroleum products to South Africa had reportedly been banned.

Although the Group had been trying to get more information, only 25 of the 57 States contacted had responded, the report continued. Morocco, Nigeria, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom are oil-exporters that have not responded, to date.

The Group recommended that all States enact legislation in line with the embargo and that they co-operate with the Group in its investigation of petroleum ships calling at South African ports.

Introducing the report, the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Group, Anthony B. Nyaki of the United Republic of Tanzania, said that currently there was no standard mechanism for reporting ships' portings and movements and that made the monitoring task more difficult.

Mr. Nyaki said the oil embargo to South Africa was potentially one of the most effective pressures at the disposal of the international community.

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14 June 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ New round of talks between El Salvador parties to begin in Mexico on 19 June.

+ Conference on Disarmament adopts programme of work for second part of 1990 session.

+ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) adopts resolutions and report as it concludes forty-sixth session.

+ Decolonization Sub-Committee approves recommendations on Tokelau, St. Helena and Bermuda.

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A new round of direct talks between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), with the participation of Alvaro de Soto, the Secretary-General's Representative, will take place in Mexico starting on 19 June. The announcement of the talks was made simultaneously in Mexico and New York.

* * *

The Conference on Disarmament today adopted its programme of work for the second part of its 1990 session. During the next 12 weeks, Conference participants will address such questions as a nuclear-test ban, chemical weapons and a comprehensive programme of disarmament.

The Conference will continue consideration of its improved and effective functioning, and will intensify its consultations with a view to taking a positive decision regarding the expansion of its membership by not more than four States.

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The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), concluding its forty-sixth session yesterday in Bangkok, adopted eight

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resolutions on economic, social and development issues, as well as a report setting forth policies and perspectives for the economic and social development of the region, and addressing such activities as human settlements, the environment, social development, international trade and tourism.

Among the resolutions adopted, one on urbanization strategies requested the Commission's Executive Secretary to prepare a report on the state of urbanization in the region and develop a regional plan of action. The Commission decided to convene a regional conference on urbanization in 1992. Another, on the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Paris in September, called on the Commission secretariat to monitor the plan of action for the 1990s for the least developed countries. In yet another resolution, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to assist the least developed countries of the region on investment matters.

At the end of the 10-day session, the Executive Secretary, S.A.M.S. Kibria, said his Commission would remain committed to pressing its search for new avenues of regional co-operation that held out promise of tangible benefits for its developing members and associate members. The political will of the member countries to forge an institutional arrangement for region-wide economic co-operation within the framework of ESCAP would determine the outcome of those efforts.

The Chairman of the session, Berenado Vunibobo, Fiji's Minister for Trade and Commerce, said the region's least developed and Pacific island countries continued to grapple with many disadvantages and problems that hampered their efforts to make any significant headway. The Commission had put great emphasis in its strategies for the 1990s on creating an economic environment conducive to speeding up growth in the region's more disadvantaged economies.

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The Sub-Committee on Small Territories this morning approved reports to the Special Committee on decolonization containing recommendations on the Non-Self-Governing Territories of Tokelau, administered by New Zealand, and St. Helena and Bermuda, administered by the United Kingdom.

The representative of Norway expressed reservations to recommendations in the report on St. Helena in which the Special Committee is asked, in view of the situation in South Africa, to note with concern the trade and transportation dependence of that Territory on South Africa, and having regard to the presence of military facilities on Ascension Island, to urge the administering Power not to involve the Territory in any offensive acts or interference against the neighbouring States which might be taken by the racist regime of South Africa.

In general, on the three Territories, the Special Committee is asked to reiterate that it is up to the peoples to determine their future political status; that it is the responsibility of the administering Powers to create

the conditions necessary to enable the people to exercise their rights and to promote the economic and social development of the Territories; to call on the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take measures to accelerate progress in the social and economic life of the Territories, and to welcome the contribution of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to the development of the Territories.

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United Nations

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DH/663
15 June 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends mandate of United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus for another six months until 15 December.

+ Secretary-General "strongly deplores" incident at UNRWA Health Centre in GAZA on Tuesday; receives situation report from the Agency's Commissioner-General.

+ Outer Space Committee concludes session, adopting its report to General Assembly.

* * *

Members of the Security Council today unanimously adopted a resolution extending the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for another six months, until 15 December.

The Council noted that the Government of Cyprus had agreed that, in view of the prevailing conditions in the island, it was necessary to keep the Force in Cyprus beyond 15 June.

The resolution requested Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to continue his mission of good offices, to keep the Council informed of the progress made, and to submit by 30 November a report on the implementation of the resolution.

The Secretary-General, in a letter dated 31 May, recommended to the Council that it extend the mandate of UNFICYP. He also appealed to the Governments of all Member countries or members of the Agencies to contribute to UNFICYP as the accumulated shortfall in the Force's special account had reached nearly $180 million for the period ending mid-June.

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The Secretary-General today "strongly deplored" the incident on Tuesday at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) Rimal Health Centre in Gaza "in which so many innocent civilians, and in particular infants and young children, were injured".

Upon learning about the 12 June incident, the Secretary-General immediately requested a report from the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, who reported back today that there had been an incident on the street outside the clinic Tuesday morning. Stones were thrown at the security forces and a young man was chased by a security force patrol into the health centre. Members of the patrol physically abused some of the staff of the health centre and patients, the report stated.

An UNRWA international staff member, who urged restraint on the part of the security forces, was also abused, the report went on, and an Israeli Defence Force officer threw a tear-gas grenade over the wall of the health centre. The grenade fell and exploded at the open door of the waiting room of the Mother-Child-Health section of the health centre, in which there were 100 to 200 women and infants.

The UNRWA reported that the matter was promptly taken up with the Israeli authorities and a letter of protest was sent to them.

* * *

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concluded its work for the current session yesterday by approving its report to the General Assembly, after it had been orally amended in draft form.

The 53-member Committee, in its report, addressed ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, noting its "responsibilities relating to the strengthening of the international basis for the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space".

The Committee recommended that its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should reconvene its Working Group of the Whole dealing with the UNISPACE 82 recommendations and expressed pleasure with progress being made in activities of the United Nations Space Applications Programme for 1990. It endorsed the following theme for special attention at the Sub-Committee's 1991 session: "Applications of airborne and satellite remote sensing for prospecting mineral and ground-water resources and for monitoring and managing biological resources, with emphasis on agriculture, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries."

Concerning the spin-off benefits of space technology, the Committee recommended that the Secretariat invite States to submit annual reports on their space activities, including information on the spin-off benefits of those activities. Particular attention was to be given to those technologies which could address developing countries' social and economic needs, it said.

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The Committee also agreed that International Space Year (ISY), to be observed in 1992, should provide an opportunity to strengthen international co-operation in the peaceful uses of space. It called for increased voluntary contributions for ISY activities to be carried out through the United Nations Space Applications Programme and took note of the General Assembly's recommendation that more attention should be paid to questions of the outer space environment and space debris.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/664
18 June 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Committee on Host Country Relations hears statements by United Nations Secretary-General and by Mayor of New York City.

+ Secretary-General meets with Feysel Husseini, Palestinian leader from the occupied territories, to discuss situation in that area.

+ Executive Director of United Nations Children's Fund launches appeals to international community for economic aid to the Sudan and Mozambique.

* * *

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country was addressed today by David Dinkins, Mayor of the City of New York, and by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar who said it was the first time any Chief Executive of New York City had attended a meeting of the Committee. He went on to say that the Mayor's presence was "an important symbol of the co-operation and understanding" which had developed over the years between the United Nations diplomatic community and the host city.

The Secretary-General also said certain problems continued to exist such as the travel restrictions and limitations imposed by the United States on personnel of a number of missions as well as on staff of the Secretariat of certain nationalities. However there were welcome signs that such restrictions were being eased, he added.

The United Nations was "a major employer, a purchaser of goods, a builder, a financial agency, an attractor of tourists and, in general, a contribution to the economy of the City and surrounding region", he noted. It was estimated that the Organization had generated expenditures in the City area amounting to $830 million a year, a figure which was expected to grow in the future.

Mr. Dinkins said that in 1988, nearly $1 billion was spent by the diplomatic community thus providing much needed stimulus to the local economy. As the largest diplomatic corps in the world, it added colour and

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sparkle to "our gorgeous mosaic" of New Yorkers of every race, religion and national origin, he said.

Thanks to a vast international effort, of which the United Nations was a vital part, the democratic majority in South Africa had reached milestone after milestone in its struggle for freedom and democracy, Mr. Dinkins stated. He looked forward to the historic State visit of Nelson Mandela to the United States.

* * *

The Secretary-General met on Saturday with Feysel Husseini, Palestinian leader from the occupied territories. They discussed the situation in the territories and the impending mission to the area of the Secretary-General's Personal Representative, Jean-Claude Aime.

A United Nations official said today that Mr. Aime, who left last night for Geneva, held talks there today with the President of the Red Cross. Further meetings with the Red Cross are scheduled for tomorrow.

* * *

The Executive Director of the United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF), James Grant, launched today at Headquarters two appeals for international economic assistance to the Sudan and to Mozambique to help starving people in those two countries. He asked for nearly $31 million for the Sudan and over $11 million for Mozambique.

Noting that both appeals were urgent, he added that Operation Lifeline Sudan was now functioning again. The appeal was designed to reach about 4.5 million people, of which some 2.5 million were in the Khartoum area in the north. Mr. Grant said the advent of a rainy season during the early summer would aggravate the transportation situation for much of the country, making it necessary to step up efforts to get funding for the appeal as fast as possible.

Regarding Mozambique, Mr. Grant said the UNICEF appeal was part of a larger effort made by the Secretary-General in April this year. The UNICEF was very much concerned since the response thus far had been "thin", with less than a million dollars received. The funds requested had been targeted "very narrowly on the million and a half people who are displaced", or on those who had just been repatriated from outside the country.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/665
19 June 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Abdulrahim Farah, holds press conference in Johannesburg to inform about findings of 10-day mission to South Africa on measures taken to end apartheid system.

+ Secretary-General appoints Joao Augusto Medicis as Personal Representative for Haiti.

+ Special Committee on decolonization begins three-day Caribbean seminar in Barbados, as part of activities commemorating thirtieth anniversary of General Assembly's 1960 Declaration on decolonization. Hears addresses by Prime Minister of Barbados, Chairman of Special Committee.

* * *

Under-Secretary-General Abdulrahim Farah said today at a press conference in Johannesburg, upon ending his 10-day fact-finding mission to South Africa, that the United Nations supports the view that the apartheid system must be "ended through negotiations". However, the mechanisms for and the substance of the new constitutional dispensation were matters to be decided by the people of South Africa, he said.

Mr. Farah was sent to the country by the Secretary-General on 9 June as the leader of a team of senior United Nations officials whose mission it has been to gather information on the measures taken to end the apartheid system.

Mr. Farah told the press that his mission had had the opportunity of meeting a wide cross-section of the community. These had included Cabinet officials, leaders of political movements and political parties, trade unions, university faculty and administrators, the business community, civic associations, women's organizations, church leaders and research and social service groups. He said all discussions had taken place in an atmosphere of openness and candour, and they had been both informative and constructive.

The "important" policy initiatives, announced by President F.W. De Klerk last February with the objective of dismantling the apartheid system, were warmly welcomed by all the organizations the mission had met, Mr. Farah said.

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For information media—not an official record

The mission had also taken note of other actions which the President had taken since then towards that end.

He stated that changes had already begun to take place for the creation of an appropriate climate in which negotiations between the political parties and movements in South Africa could take place. However, the mission had noted with concern the alarming degree of violence occurring in many parts of South Africa, in particular in the Natal province.

Mr. Farah called for confidence-building measures that could reduce the political violence and increase the level of trust such as the institution of draft programmes of economic and social redress for the most deprived groups in the country.

* * *

After consulting with the Haitian Government, the Secretary-General has decided to appoint Joao Augusto de Medicis, a national of Brazil, as his Personal Representative for Haiti.

Taking effect from today, Mr. de Medicis is to advise the Secretary-General on the assistance which could be provided to the Haitian authorities during the electoral process in their country.

Mr. de Medicis has been Brazil's Permanent Representative to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome since 1987. From 1984 to 1986, he was Ambassador to Kenya, Uganda, Mauritius and Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). Mr. de Medicis also held a number of posts in the Foreign Ministry of Brazil.

* * *

The Special Committee on decolonization began today a Caribbean regional seminar on decolonization which will meet for the next three days in Bridgetown, Barbados, as part of the United Nations activities to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary this year of the General Assembly's 1960 Declaration on decolonization.

In an opening address to some 100 participants including heads of Governments and other representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean, the Prime Minister of Barbados, Erskine Sandiford, called for the remaining Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories to keep their options open in determining their future status. He said his country believed that size and economic circumstances should not be deterrents to free expression of the will of the peoples of those Territories.

The Chairman of the Special Committee on decolonization, Tesfaye Tadesse of Ethiopia, in his key-note address outlining the major issues on the agenda, stated that it was not the role of the Committee to dictate to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories in which direction their future lay. The Committee's mandate was to ascertain that the administering Powers prepare the people of their Territories to take charge of their own destiny and to formulate concrete suggestions.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/666
20 June 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General expresses hope for resumption of dialogue between United States and Palestine Liberation Organization in statement issued by his spokeswoman.

+ President of Security Council, in statement on behalf of its members, "deplores" incident at UNRWA clinic near Gaza on 12 June. Chairman of Committee on Inalienable Rights of Palestinian People expresses "outrage" by incident, in letter to Secretary-General.

+ Secretary-General issues report to Security Council on situation concerning Western Sahara.

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In a statement made attributable to his spokeswoman the Secretary-General said today that he had noted that the United States Government was, for the present, suspending its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

While he respected, of course, the decisions of Governments, the Secretary-General would like to emphasize that the United Nations was an organization committed to the furthering of peace through dialogue. He hoped therefore that ways would soon be found of resuming a dialogue that could "serve the great purpose of achieving peace in the Middle East".

* * *

Members of the Security Council have "strongly deplored" the incident on 12 June in the Rimal Health Centre in Gaza belonging to a United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in which several innocent Palestinian women and children were wounded by a tear-gas grenade thrown by an Israeli officer.

The President of the Security Council, Pierre-Louis Blanc (France), in a statement on behalf of its members, said they were "dismayed to find that the penalty imposed on the officer had been commuted". He further called on

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For information media—not an official record

Israel to abide by its obligations under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Absa Claude Diallo (Senegal), issued a statement on behalf of the Committee in which she expressed "outrage at the incursion by the Israeli army into the centre".

She said the Committee was "deeply alarmed at the extreme gravity" of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, and that the Committee called for the urgent adoption of effective measures by the Security Council to provide international protection to Palestinian civilians.

* * *

The Secretary-General has issued a report to the Security Council, dated 18 June, on the situation concerning Western Sahara. The report covers the ways and means to ensure the organization and conduct of a referendum for self-determination of the people of that Territory by the United Nations, in co-operation with the Organization for African Unity (OAU).

In the report, the Secretary-General stated that the United Nations operation in Western Sahara would be large and complicated and therefore he would dispatch, in the immediate future, a technical mission to the Territory and to the neighbouring countries of Algeria and Mauritania. Also in the report the Secretary-General defined the tasks of the three units -- civilian, military and security -- of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

The civilian unit, which was central to the operation, would comprise the office of the Special Representative and his support staff, in fields such as administration and legislative matters, questions relating to refugees and political detainees, information and public relations. In addition, a major part of the civilian unit would be responsible for the organization and conduct of the referendum.

The security unit would be made up of civil police. Their task would be to ensure tranquillity, maintain law and order and monitor the activities of the existing police forces. It would be commanded by a Police Commissioner appointed by the Secretary-General and its members would be provided by Governments, at the request of the Secretary-General.

Among the tasks of the military unit would be to monitor the cease-fire; verify the agreed reduction in troops and provide security for the return of Western Saharans from outside the Territory. The military observers required to perform this task would be under the command of the United Nations and under the authority of the Security Council. A Force Commander would be appointed by the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General will submit a further report to the Security Council recommending that it authorize the immediate establishment of MINURSO for the purposes described in the present report.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/667
21 June 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General in opening statement at Donors' Pledging Conference for Namibia calls for "generous financial, material and technical support" to the country.

+ President of Namibia appeals for international aid to help his country consolidate independence and foster "economic and social well-being" for its people. The Director-General of Namibia's National Planning Commission and the Regional Director of the African Bureau of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also address Pledging Conference.

+ Nelson Mandela, South African anti-apartheid leader, to visit United Nations tomorrow as part of his 12-day visit to the United States.

+ United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator reports about two earthquakes which struck, earlier today, in Iran near the Caspian Sea.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar opened today at Headquarters the Donors' Pledging Conference for Namibia urging participants to respond to a Security Council resolution of last October which appealed to States, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations to extend "generous financial, material and technical support to the Namibian people".

He said the independence of Namibia had created new requirements among which were those of the unemployed who were estimated to constitute some 30 per cent of the active labour force. Also in need were a large number of returnees -- the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had repatriated some 44,000 Namibians -- some of them wounded and handicapped, he said.

The Secretary-General stressed that the financial resources needed to address those problems would be immense, especially in view of the huge inherited budget deficit, as well as the reported debt of 700 million rand inherited from the previous administration.

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He said the Namibian Constitution had stipulated that the country would have a mixed economy. Thus, "a healthy climate for investments in both the public and the private sectors already exists", he said.

There was yet another reason why assistance to Namibia was vital: a stable Namibia, in both its political and economic spheres, would serve as "a beacon of hope for peaceful change in South Africa and stability in the region as a whole", the Secretary-General stated.

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President Sam Nujoma of Namibia told donors at the Pledging Conference that his country had "set in motion our own brand of democracy". He appealed for assistance from the international community so that the new nation could begin its policy of consolidating independence, reconciliation and "the fostering of peace, unity, economic and social well-being for all our people".

He went on to say that the Government would make the environment conducive to private investments regarding such issues as taxation, foreign trade, capital regulations and company legislation. The Government would be host for a private investment conference later this year or early next year to explore ways of attracting private investment.

Also at the Conference, Zedekia Ngavirue, Director-General of the National Planning Commission of Namibia, said the Government planned to remove all discriminatory practices, provide adequate health and nutrition for its citizens, provide compulsory education for children, as well as adult education, ensure equal opportunities for women and promote the protection of the environment and sustainable development.

Among others addressing the donors, Pierre-Claver Damiba, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director of the Africa Bureau of UNDP, said $13 million of UNDP financial resources were available for indicative planning for Namibia for the current period (1987-1991). Regarding the Trust Fund for Namibia, a total of $2.4 million had so far been pledged, and additional pledges, including $1.6 million from Norway, were expected. Also, money that had been earmarked for the benefit of Namibians in exile amounted to an estimated $2.2 million.

* * *

Nelson Mandela, Deputy President of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), will visit the United Nations tomorrow, invited by the Special Committee against Apartheid.

Following meetings with the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Mandela will address the Special Committee which has invited Member countries and special guests. After the meeting, he will hold a press conference.

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Among the guests invited to the meeting are the Governor of New York, Mario Cuomo; Congressmen Bill Green and Charles B. Rangel; the Mayor of New York City, David Dinkins, the Rev. Jesse Jackson; the President of the World Boxing Council, Jose Sulaiman, Mohammed Ali; "Sugar" Ray Leonard; and the 1986 Nobel Laureate for Literature, Wole Soyinka. Other prominent personalities from academic, cultural, sports and religious circles, as well as anti-apartheid activists, have also confirmed their intentions to participate.

* * *

The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) reported today that two earthquakes had hit Iran near the Caspian Sea earlier today.

A United Nations official told correspondents at Headquarters that, according to UNDRO, the death toll was up to 3,710, following the two earthquakes. The Government of Iran had advised UNDRO that it welcomed international assistance. A senior officer of UNDRO and a relief co-ordination officer had already been sent to the area to consult with the Government. The most immediate priority needs were for medical supply and tents; other requirements so far indicated were canned food, blankets, clothing, vehicles and heavy duty equipment.

The Secretary-General sent a statement to the President of Iran in which he said that "it was with profound sorrow", he had learned about the "devastating" earthquake which had affected the northwestern part of the country. He said the United Nations system stood ready to provide "all the assistance possible to the population so severely affected".

The Secretary-General informed the Iranian Government that UNDRO had already dispatched an emergency team to be at its disposal and that an airlift of emergency supplies had been undertaken from the United Nations warehouses to the affected sites in co-ordination with the Iranian authorities.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/668
22 June 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General and President of General Assembly welcome Nelson Mandela to United Nations in statements before special meeting of Special Committee against Apartheid. Addresses by President of Security Council, Chairman of Special Committee, Chairman of African Group.

+ Nelson Mandela, addressing special meeting, convened in his honour, urges that the sanctions imposed against South Africa remain in place.

+ Secretary-General appoints M'Hamed Essaafi as Special Representative for Emergency in Northern Iran.

+ Secretary-General's spokesman informs about direct talks between Government of El Salvador and Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) that began in Mexico on Tuesday, with participation of Secretary-General's Representative.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar welcomed Nelson Mandela to the United Nations today by calling his presence a "landmark in the Organization's long involvement in the struggle by the people of South Africa against the apartheid system".

On behalf of the community of nations, the Secretary-General welcomed Mr. Mandela as a champion of freedom, saying he had inspired millions around the world with his message of peace and justice despite a long and unjust imprisonment. No other human rights situation had caused so much concern and distress to the United Nations as that of apartheid, the Secretary-General said, because the issues at stake struck at the very heart of the United Nations Charter and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

He said Mr. Mandela symbolized the unconquerable spirit of the people of South Africa, without whose great courage and respect, the dramatic change in the situation in South Africa would not have come about. He also called attention to Mrs. Mandela, whose courage and steadfastness, he said, commanded respect.

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The Secretary-General expressed hope that Mr. Mandela, together with his compatriots, would steer South Africa through the current preliminary stage of dismantling apartheid to the stage of preparing a new constitution and redressing socio-economic injustices.

Joseph N. Garba of Nigeria, President of the General Assembly, also addressing the special meeting, said there was growing realization in Pretoria that negotiations with the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and other black political organizations offered "the only way out of their political crisis and international isolation". Recent breakthroughs heralded a crucial transition towards liberation which was for so long a distant and unachievable goal, the Assembly President said.

Mr. Garba reminded the special meeting of the Declaration on South Africa which was unanimously adopted by the Assembly last December and which was based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That historic document clearly spelt out the international community's vision of a new South Africa and the foundations on which it could be build, he said.

Mr. Garba said the General Assembly was to reconvene in about a month, to consider the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of that Declaration. He expressed hope that the visit of Mr. Mandela would make the Assembly better disposed to reach a decision on the important and crucial question of sanctions and the eventual eradication of apartheid.

Pierre-Louis Blanc of France, President of the Security Council for the month of June, said that as early as 1963, the Council had called on the South African Government to liberate all persons imprisoned, interned or subjected to other restrictions for having opposed the policy of apartheid. In 1985, it called upon that Government to release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners and detainees, including Nelson Mandela and all other black leaders with whom it must deal, in any meaningful discussion of the future of the country.

He said the members of the Council were pledged to do everything in their power, under the Charter, to promote the exercise by all South Africans of the rights proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Chairman of the Special Committee, Ibrahim A. Gambari of Nigeria, in welcoming Mr. Mandela, said he was a man who was a legend in his own time, a man who had become the moral conscience of the world and an embodiment of the finest in human spirit in the universal struggle for peace, justice and freedom. He reiterated the Organization's commitment to the eradication of apartheid and said the call and support for sanctions remained abiding until apartheid was completely eradicated.

Satteeanund Peerthum of Mauritius, Chairman of the African Group, said recent developments in South Africa indicated the strong possibility of further positive changes. Nothing would be achieved, however, unless a genuine climate for negotiations was created. The ANC had shown flexibility,

but no real negotiations were possible while thousands of political prisoners remained behind bars, and while the Group Areas Act and the bantustan system remained, he said.

The South African regime was at the crossroads, he said. It was being offered a chance to build a united, non racial and democratic state. Africa waited with expectation. There was no doubt that a strong South African economy would be a crucial factor in the future of all countries south of the Sahara. More important, a free South Africa could become a genuine model of nationhood for Africa, he stated.

* * *

Nelson Mandela, Deputy President of ANC, told the United Nations today that nothing which had happened in South Africa called for a revision of the positions that the Organization had taken in its struggle against apartheid. He therefore strongly urged that there should be no relaxation of existing measures, and that the sanctions that had been imposed by the United Nations and by individual Governments should remain in place.

Mr. Mandela, addressing a special meeting of the Special Committee against Apartheid convened in his honour, said he hoped all member countries would continue to act in concert so as not to create any situation in which those who were opposed to change in South Africa found encouragement to resist change, because some countries would have destroyed the consensus that had been achieved.

At the initiative of ANC, he said, a process had begun which could lead to a just political settlement in South Africa. The process of implementing the agreement reached in Cape Town had started, but a lot still remained to be done before it could be said that a climate conducive to negotiations had been created.

He said he believed that South Africa's President, F.W. De Klerk, and his colleagues were people of integrity and would abide by decisions arrived at in the course of discussions and negotiations. It was also true, he added, that there were many among the white compatriots who were still committed to the maintenance of the evil system of white minority domination. They posed a threat to the whole process of moving towards a just political settlement.

Mr. Mandela said: "This is for us a moving moment because we know that as we stand here we are among friends and people of conscience. We know this because we know what you did over the decades to secure my release and the release of other South African political prisoners from Pretoria's dungeons. We thank you most sincerely for this, especially because you have thus given us the opportunity to join hands with you in the search for a speedy solution to the enormous problems facing our country our region and humanity as a whole."

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It was announced today at Headquarters that the Secretary-General has appointed M'Hamed Essaafi, United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, as his Special Representative for the Emergency in Northern Iran.

The earthquakes struck that part of Iran on 21 June causing extensive human, physical and economic damage. The death toll has already reached almost 40,000 people and is expected to rise, while the number of injured is estimated to be over 100,000 people.

In view of the gravity of the situation, and in agreement with the Government of Iran, the Secretary-General has determined that the emergency, according to the announcement, called for system-wide action. By appointing Mr. Essaafi as his Special Representative for the Emergency in Northern Iran, the Secretary-General is ensuring that the United Nations system will be in a position to fully support the extensive relief efforts needed for the affected population. The Special Representative will take all the necessary action in close consultation with the Government of Iran and the organizations of the United Nations system.

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The Secretary-General's Spokesman said in a statement issued at Headquarters today that the direct talks between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti (FMLN), which began on Tuesday, were proceeding in Mexico through a "face-to-face" meeting with the participation of Alvaro de Soto, the Secretary-General's Representative, as well as in separate meetings of each of the sides with Mr. de Soto.

He said negotiation was proving "difficult", which was to be expected given the sensitivity of the matters under consideration, which included the whole issue of the armed forces. "But progress was being made", he said. It would, however, not be wise to make predictions as to the outcome at this stage.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/669
25 June 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Palestinian Rights Committee begins seventh North American Regional Seminar on Question of Palestine hearing messages from Secretary-General and Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, statement by Committee Chairman.

+ Namibia Donors' Pledging Conference, ending two-day meeting last Friday, receives $360 million for development by international community. Statements made by Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, Deputy Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

+ Lisbet Palme, of Sweden, elected Chairman of Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund.

+ United Nations Commission on International Trade Law begins session in New York.

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The need for dialogue in order to bring about a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian problem was stressed today, as the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People began its seventh North American Regional Seminar and Non-Governmental Organization Symposium on the Question of Palestine.

Other matters discussed included the continuing intifadah, the need for action by the Security Council, the call for an International Peace Conference under United Nations auspices and the question of continuing settlement of Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories.

Speaking on behalf of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs, Ronald Spiers, said the meeting was taking place at a time when the current political deadlock, combined with a diplomatic vacuum, might have very serious

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implications if it continued. The international community was increasingly concerned at the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories. The message of the intifadah was direct and unequivocal.

Deeply concerned about developments in the territories, the Secretary-General had sent a mission to look into the situation and to report back to him, Mr. Spiers said. The Secretary-General felt it imperative that a negotiating process involving all parties to the conflict be launched as soon as possible. He had maintained constant contact with all the parties to the conflict in order to establish a common basis for negotiations. Despite recent discouraging developments, efforts of the Governments to assist the parties towards a settlement must continue.

Mr. Spiers, on behalf of the Secretary-General, emphasized that an enlightened public opinion could bring pressure to advance the peace process in the Middle East. Support for the principle of self-determination for the Palestinian people by the influential participants in the meeting could contribute to the mobilization of public opinion in North America. Wide support was indispensable for a just solution to the question of Palestine.

Absa Claude Diallo, of Senegal, Committee Chairman, said the Committee was committed to promoting dialogue and widening the area of consensus between the parties, through which a solution might be reached. "We are convinced that many sectors of Israeli public opinion are far ahead of their Government in this regard", she said, and many Israelis had begun to understand the need for talking with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and withdrawing from the occupied territory.

In a message read out by Zuhdi L. Terzi, Observer for Palestine, Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, said the breaking off by the United States of the dialogue with PLO added to increased tension in the region, gave new strength to extremism and clearly revealed the blind partiality of the United States Administration towards Israel. The PLO held the United States Administration responsible for the lack of progress and any deterioration of the situation which might follow.

Clovis Maksoud, Observer for the League of Arab States, said the Arab States would not negotiate directly with Israel, but only through the International Conference under the United Nations auspices.

It was announced at Headquarters today that the Secretary-General's Personal Representative on matters relating to the Middle East, Jean-Claude Aimé, had met today in Jerusalem with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and had delivered a letter from the Secretary-General. Mr. Aimé was also scheduled to meet with other Israeli officials and a spokesman of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

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Three hundred and sixty million dollars has been pledged for the next three years for the reconstruction and development of Namibia at the two-day donors' pledging conference held at Headquarters last Thursday and Friday. Of that sum, some $90 million will be in the form of concessional grants or loans.

(more)

Antoine Blanca, Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, said those figures did not include possible credits or loans from international developments banks. He said the amounts pledged indicated substantial support for the new Government's programme, and that it was particularly gratifying that donor support for human and social services had been strong.

The Foreign Minister of Namibia, Theo-Ben Guriab, thanked the donors for their support and pledged that the confidence placed in Namibia would be rewarded by improved benefits for all of the people of his country.

Among others addressing the pledging conference, Hassan H. Bahlouli, Deputy Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), said that following discussions with the Namibian Ministry of Industry and Trade, UNIDO had approved a project to respond to the immediate needs of Namibia for industrial development. The UNIDO was also ready to assist the Government of Namibia in the implementation of projects to be established within the framework of the fifth programming cycle of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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Lisbet Palme, the widow of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme and Chairman of the Swedish National Committee of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), was elected today as Chairman of the agency's Executive Board at an organizational meeting of the Board.

Jan Eliasson, of Sweden, in a statement on behalf of Mrs. Palme, said that as a true advocate of the cause of children, she would accept her new role, which had come at a time when UNICEF was planning for the World Summit for Children in September.

* * *

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) began today its twenty-third session by electing Michael Joachim Bonell of Italy as Chairman. The Commission also adopted an agenda for the two-week session during which it plans to focus attention mainly on developing legal standards for international countertrade.

In an opening statement, the United Nations Legal Counsel, Carl-August Fleischhauer, stressed the increasing importance of countertrade arrangements -- which involve barter or other reciprocal forms of compensation -- particularly for developing countries.

The Commission began a general discussion of the proposed structure of a legal guide for countertrade agreements. Among the issues raised were the disadvantage of such arrangements for small enterprises which could not absorb return commodities or goods in large quantities, the need for clear chapter headings in the envisaged legal guide, the question of how to avoid duplication of effort with other international legal guides in preparation, and the advantage of providing a legal framework for non-monetary transactions.

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United Nations

Press Release

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly to convene in special meeting on Thursday to consider emergency assistance to Iran, following earthquake in that country last week.

+ International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed at Headquarters. Secretary-General calls for "urgent measures to combat this mounting threat to society".

+ Direct talks between Government of El Salvador and Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) end in Mexico without agreement, according to Secretary-General's Personal Representative on Central America.

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The General Assembly will convene on Thursday, 28 June, at the request of the Asian Group of States, in order to consider "emergency assistance to Iran following the devastating earthquake" that struck the country last week.

In a letter addressed to the President of the Assembly, Nasim Ahmed of Pakistan, in capacity as the Chairman of the Asian Group for June, urged that the meeting be convened as early as possible in view of "the loss of life and massive destruction caused by the earthquake".

The Assembly will consider the question under agenda item 88, entitled "Special economic and disaster relief assistance: special programmes of economic assistance".

* * *

Today, 26 June, the third International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed at Headquarters.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The programme included a panel discussion on the merits of various drug treatment and prevention strategies. That was followed by a performance by residents of Daytop Village, the oldest and largest drug rehabilitation programme in the United States.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in a message issued in connection with the Day, called on communities around the world to increase their efforts to prevent drug abuse and to help those who have been blighted by drugs. He said it was essential that all elements of society, including health-care workers, the mass media, civil and religious leaders, work together to combat this mounting threat to society. He also urged the international community as a whole to mobilize its resources for concerted action to meet the global challenge of drugs and the damage they cause.

The Assembly established the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in December 1987, in response to a recommendation by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, held in Vienna that year.

* * *

Peace talks between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabunbo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) ended in Mexico yesterday without agreement, according to the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central America, Alvaro de Soto.

Mr. de Soto said the talks, aimed at reaching a negotiated political settlement by mid-September of El Salvador's 10-year civil war, were positive and "without precedent in the history of contacts" between FMLN and the Salvadoran Government.

The next round of talks are scheduled to take place between 20-25 July.

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